

DEFICIENCY IN APPROPRIATION FOR PAY OF ASSISTANT
CUSTODIANS AND JANITORS.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

SUBMITTING

An estimate of deficiency in the appropriation for pay of assistant custodians and janitors for the fiscal year 1894.

OCTOBER 14, 1893.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *October 13, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to request that the sum of \$165,920 additional to the appropriation "Pay of assistant custodians and janitors, 1894," be provided for the care and protection of the public buildings under the control of this Department for the nine months ending June 30, 1894, and would urge that the subject be given consideration as early as possible.

The appropriation for the current fiscal year was \$580,000, an amount wholly inadequate and \$75,000 less than the appropriation for the payment of the same service for the last fiscal year.

The amount appropriated has been apportioned as required by the act so as to prevent a deficiency, to accomplish which, however, required a reduction in the custodians' forces, already in a crippled condition owing to the insufficiency of the appropriation for the previous year. Many of the buildings are without firemen and requests are received daily for additional help in order that the buildings may be kept clean, the temperature at a comfortable degree, and the heating apparatus operated with safety and economy.

The elevator service has been necessarily discontinued in a number of buildings and so impaired in its operation in others by the reduction of the forces as to afford but inadequate accommodation. The salaries paid the employes are not in excess of those received by persons similarly employed by business establishments. There are now 211 buildings occupied and 9 new buildings will be ready for occupancy within the next five months.

The Department has exhausted its resources and unless an additional appropriation is made the unclean and discreditable condition of some of the buildings cannot be remedied, the business interests of

the Government will be greatly embarrassed, and the officials in the buildings subjected to inconvenience and discomfort.

The estimate for the additional appropriation has been carefully prepared and states the amount actually required to meet the reasonable demands that are being made upon the Department for additional help.

Respectfully, yours,

W. E. CURTIS,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. CHAS. F. CRISP,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

○